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Neutral—cont.

33. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar.
34. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
35. ,, S. Satyamurti.
36. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
37. ,, C. Maruthavanam Pillai.
38. ,, U. Rama Rao.
39. ,, G. Rameswara Rao.
40. ,, P. C. Venkatapathi Raju.
41. ,, Venkatarama Ayyar alias Pantulu Ayyar.
42. ,, B. Venkataratnam.
43. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan.
44. ,, G. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib.
45. ,, Abdul Hye Sahib.
46. ,, Hamid Sultan Marakkayar.
47. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib.
48. Mr. T. M. Moidu Sahib.
49. ,, Muhammad Moosa Sait.
50. ,, J. N. Muhammad Sahib.
51. ,, K. Uppi Sahib.
52. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib.
53. Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib.

40 voted *for* and 7 *against*, 53 remaining *neutral*.

The Motion (No. 8), as amended, was declared carried.

When the result of the poll was declared, Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI rose up and said :—" Mr. President, can the neutrals have it if they are in a majority in regard to the voting on this Resolution ? " (Laughter and cheers from Opposition benches).

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" May I say, Sir, that armed neutrality has been successful ? "

Since Mr. Rameswara Rao's Motion No. 12 on the agenda was identical with that of Motion No. 6 which had been postponed for further consideration to the 13th December, it was not taken up.

IMPROVEMENT OF WORKS OF IRRIGATION IN NELLORE DISTRICT.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I beg to move :—

9. *That this Council recommends to the Government to take special steps for the improvement and extension of works of irrigation in the Nellore district.*

" Before I take this Council into a detailed consideration of some of the irrigation projects affecting the Nellore district, I think it is but proper that I give an idea as to the extent of irrigation facilities in the district at present. After giving an idea to this House of the extent of irrigation facilities in my district and after giving an idea of some of the irrigation projects which have been under consideration at least since the publication of the report of the Irrigation Commission of 1901–03, I will try to place before this House certain problems which stand in the way of the carrying out of the irrigation projects, with the full hope that the hon. the Member for Irrigation will be in a position to find adequate remedies to deal with such difficulties. So far as the Nellore district is concerned, it covers a very wide area of about 8,000 square miles without adequate provision for irrigation and I shall show presently that the cultivated area in the district is much less than the presidency average either in results or in respect of provision for irrigation facilities. At present, it will be found, that so far as this district is concerned, out of a total of 51 and odd lakhs of acres, the cultivated area is about 12·90 acres which works out only to 25 per cent of the total area as against the presidency average of 42 per cent. If we take into account the area commanded by works of irrigation, it is only 6 per cent as against the presidency average of 8 per cent. Again, if you take into account the extent of lands irrigable, it is only 5·8 per cent as against 7·9 per cent for the whole presidency. Among the main irrigation works in the district, apart from some minor works, the most important are what are known as the Pennar River

Canal system. These works were completed with about 18·6 lakhs and about 67·34 lakhs of rupees have been already realized which means a surplus revenue of 57 lakhs. I am mentioning this figure to show that so far as the irrigation revenue from that district is concerned, it has been realized fairly reasonably and it has been showing a net profit year after year. The interest on capital outlay on the works of irrigation was calculated to the end of 1916–17 at 3·32 or three and one-third per cent, whereas from that year there was an increase to 6 per cent with the result that interest on capital outlay alone came to a very large sum. We will find that upon these irrigation works only there has been a net profit of 3·57 per cent. Notwithstanding the existence of these works, the Irrigation Commission which examined this question at considerable length in 1901–03, made various proposals for the purpose of improving irrigation in the district. They found upon inquiry that next to the Ceded districts, Nellore should be classed among those which are often visited by famine and made various proposals for the purpose of improving the irrigation of the district They suggested among other things a re-investigation of the Tungabhadra project so as to benefit the Ceded districts as well as the Nellore district and they also suggested the feasibility of constructing other storage works for the river Pennar. I have taken into account the various works of irrigation which have been under investigation from 1901–03 and I find that though various works were investigated from time to time, though at a certain stage it was hoped that it would be possible to investigate them in a manner so as to bring some works into existence, several of them had either to be given up or had to be abandoned for various reasons. Among others, will be found four schemes; one known as the Paidemeru scheme, by which it was proposed to excavate a surplus channel from the Kanigiri reservoir, was under consideration and nothing came out of it. A scheme known as the Sarvapalle project which was irrigating an extent of about 11,200 acres and which was expected to irrigate a further extent of about 7,000 acres, was also abandoned on the ground that compared with its cost the results would not justify a further investigation of the scheme."

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" May I correct the hon. Member, Sir? This scheme was abandoned as it was found that in years of short supply, little or no water would reach the extension of ayacut proposed and that the project would fail in seven years out of twenty."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—" That is so far as the Sarvapalle project is concerned. There is another project known as the Boggeru project estimated to cost about 9½ lakhs intended to secure supply to two tanks in the western portion of the district, viz., Atmakur and Vasili, the idea having been to construct a new supply channel also. That was abandoned on two grounds. One was that it did not satisfy the conditions of productive work and the other was that the old ayacut might be benefited by the supply. There was another project which was taken up at a cost of about 11¾ lakhs of rupees known as Surnamukhi project from which it was expected that several portions of the Venkatagiri estate would be benefited. It was also abandoned as the cost of construction would be very high and the return would be low and that the zamindars themselves did not recommend its continuance. The main reason so far as two of these projects are concerned was that it did not satisfy the conditions of productive work. After investigating these four projects which were abandoned for various reasons, we find that there are six other projects which according to Mr. Morgan's report are supposed to be

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still under investigation. An examination of the conclusions arrived at by him would show that there is not much hope of carrying out those projects to successful termination unless some difficulties which stand in the way are encountered. After examining the conditions of the district and the various projects it is stated that the four projects would require still further consideration. One is what is known as the Atleru reservoir, another is Gandipalem reservoir, another is the Pulikonda reservoir, the other is Rallapad reservoir, the fifth is the Mopad and Machavaram tanks, and another and important one is the Vengalapuram reservoir. So far as the last is concerned there is a further history behind it which would show that the Agricultural Department made some enquiries in 1918 as to whether the villages would be prepared to pay a proper water-rate of Rs. 12½ per acre to enable the Government to proceed with the project. The enquiry was made and the Director of Agriculture was satisfied from the enquiries that 17 out of 31 villages were willing to pay that rate. Notwithstanding this circumstance it has not been found possible to make further headway with that project. Sir, having given a brief outline of some of the projects which were investigated and in some cases abandoned and in some other cases still under investigation, I wish to point out that unless the hon. Member for Irrigation takes into his head to solve some of the difficulties which will be created in the way of carrying out these projects he would not be in a position to show satisfactory results in the way of extension of irrigation. One of the chief obstacles which have been created is the classification. . . ."

The Raja of Ramnad :—" I think there is no quorum."

The hon. the President :—" Yes, there is."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—" The chief difficulties which have to be solved before there can be any extension of irrigation in this district, notwithstanding all the good intentions of the Government, are these : there must be a better system of classification between productive and protective works. In considering whether a work is to be classified as productive or protective the nature of the tract which the work is intended to serve must be specially taken into account. I may point out that so far as the Nellore district is concerned the various irrigation projects are calculated to serve some of the dry tracts. I may draw the attention of the hon. Member for Irrigation to the fact that the rainfall in these taluks is much lower than in other portions of the district. If the average rainfall in those tracts where some of the projects are intended to be put into operation be taken into account, it will be found that they must show special consideration to those dry taluks which are liable to be affected by famine.

" The second point to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Member for Irrigation is this : to require that in the case of capital outlay it should carry an interest of about six per cent will practically impede the projects of several of the irrigation works. I quite realize that it is not possible to carry out new irrigation projects at the old water-rate. It is quite reasonable to require that they should be prepared to pay a reasonable water-rate for the purpose of getting water from these new irrigation works. If the Government should go to the length of saying that on all irrigation works undertaken hereafter at a heavy cost they should get an interest of six per cent on the capital outlay while till 1916–17 they wanted only 3½ per cent, I think they would be practically denying justice, and it would impede further extension of irrigation. It will also be remembered that at the time of the investigation of the Vengalapuram project Government considered that, instead of a wet

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rate of Rs. 4 per acre, Rs. 12½ might probably induce them to take up the work. Investigation showed the willingness of 17 out of the 31 villages to pay that rate. Notwithstanding their willingness to pay at the enhanced water-rate which is three times the original rate, is it fair, reasonable or just that they should be called upon to bear an additional burden? Unless the Government are in earnest in their efforts to carry out these irrigation projects, taking the circumstances of each tract into consideration, and fixing a reasonable water-rate with due regard to the economic value of the land and its crops, I am quite certain that much headway in the execution of these irrigation works cannot be made.

"There is another way of looking at this which might commend itself to the consideration of the hon. Member for Irrigation. There are some districts in which there has been a surplus irrigation revenue. In Nellore we have 57 lakhs of rupees. Why should we not take the district as a whole as one unit and take the irrigation revenue realized into consideration? If we then calculate the percentage I am quite certain it will be high. The hon. Member for Revenue visited Nellore district and at an informal conference for the purpose of seeing whether it is possible to make further progress regarding the irrigation works said that he would consider the possibility of giving effect to them. When the landholders of a particular district have paid large sums of money according to the established rates as irrigation revenue, why should not the sum paid in excess of the prescribed rate of interest upon the capital outlay at six per cent be utilised for the purpose of extending irrigation in that district? I have stated that there is a surplus of two or three lakhs of irrigation revenue from the Pennar water-works. Instead of making persons who are likely to be benefited by the new irrigation works, such as Vengalapuram reservoir or Gandipalem reservoir, pay prohibitive water-rates, it would be fair and just if the whole irrigation revenue is taken into consideration I would, therefore, say that there is not much use in investigations being carried on in respect of these irrigation projects unless the Government will take a bold step forward and solve some of the difficulties. It was pointed out by the hon. the Member in charge of Irrigation in reply to the hon. Member from Coimbatore that all these irrigation projects have been investigated, that Mr. Morgan's report is ready and that hon. Members interested could make further examinations. I am sure that no further examination of the proposals under the circumstances in which we are placed would satisfy us unless these irrigation projects are pushed through in one or other of the ways I have suggested.

"The Government must fix the water-rate at a lower rate of interest, and take the full responsibility for carrying out these projects. In differentiating irrigation works intended to serve a particular locality, they must see whether conditions of production are to be enforced or not. They must at least take the revenue from the whole district into consideration and set it against the interests of the new irrigation projects. Unless modifications on these lines are made, such investigations which have been going on from the time of the Irrigation Commission, during the last 20 years, and any further investigation which may go on, will not be able to produce any tangible results.

"I therefore press on the hon. Member for Irrigation, who, I am sure, will take it into his head that during his tenure of office he will do something to extend the irrigation of the district, and try to tackle this problem not by

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mere investigations, but by grappling with the financial aspect of these projects. Some at least of these projects must be put into operation as early as possible. With these few words, I move the Resolution."

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding this Motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, if the hon. Member who had spoken will take out the word 'special' I shall accept the Resolution, for the simple reason that the Government have been taking steps already for the extension of irrigation in the Nellore district. I shall endeavour presently to supply certain facts to this House. Nellore is specially fortunate in that respect, and the position is this. If hon. Members will look into the 'Review of Irrigation in India' recently published, they will see how far Nellore, as compared with other districts, has advanced. The Mopad project in the Nellore district irrigated 800 acres in 1920–21 and 2,048 acres in 1921–22, the total outlay being 22·90 lakhs. The Vangalapuram project has been under the consideration of the Local Government and I may at once complete my remarks on that by saying that it is not in the same nebulous state of consideration, but we are pushing ahead with the work and you may take it that before long it will be completed.

" Let us, for a moment, consider what Vengalapuram project means. It means that the capital cost of the project is estimated at 34 lakhs, including the direct and indirect charges, and the net revenue represents a return of a very low percentage indeed as will be seen from Mr. Morgan's report. The Kaniyampalayam project also in the Nellore district was completed, the outlay to the end of the year being 1·21 lakhs. There are many other projects under consideration by the Government. Some of them which have been mentioned by the hon. the Mover had to be abandoned. He referred to four examples. The Pyderu scheme was abandoned, the cost being considered to be absolutely prohibitive, whatever interest we might fix, not only 6 per cent but even a lower rate of interest. The Sarvapalle project has been abandoned as it was found that in years of short supply little or no water would reach the extension of ayacut proposed and that the project would fail in seven years out of twenty. The Boggeru project was abandoned because the project does not satisfy the conditions of a productive or protective work, and in different years the old ayacut alone would benefit by the increased supply. The Swarnamukhi project was abandoned as even the zamindars concerned recommended the abandonment.

5 p.m.

" I do not propose to relax the efforts made by the Government in the matter of pushing on the projects in regard to Nellore. And therefore I shall accept the Resolution if the word 'special' be omitted from it. The reason why I lay emphasis upon that is that there are many districts, the Ceded Districts especially, whose needs are so great that I do not desire to have a commitment by me to the effect that there would be a prior charge, so to say, in favour of Nellore district, over the other districts. We know exactly what conditions prevail just now in Bellary and other districts which are in a very bad way and require preferential treatment. It is for that reason and in order to guard against any undertaking or pledge that Nellore will have preference, that I say that I shall accept the Resolution if the word 'special' is omitted from it.

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"Then my hon. Friend from Nellore made some remarks on the general manner in which irrigation programmes are put through. He wanted a change of classification and he also referred to the water-rate. Now, I may mention that the Vengalapuram reservoir itself stands in this position. The estimate has been revised by the Projects division. The revision has been completed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, but the project has been deferred till the general question of water-rate assessment is finally settled. Wherever we may turn, we are back on the one and overmastering problem of the question of the water-rate and of a general irrigation law. Many of these schemes have been held over for that purpose, but so far as the Vengalapuram project is concerned, there will be absolutely no avoidable delay in pushing it through.

"So, Sir, I have great pleasure in accepting the Resolution if my hon. Friend the Mover will consent to omit the word 'special'. Otherwise I am afraid I cannot."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—"Sir, I am rather embarrassed by the hon. the Law Member, the Member for Irrigation, consenting to accept the Resolution with the omission of the word 'special,' as if the word 'special' would create special difficulties in the way of his doing what otherwise he would be in a position to do."

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"I did not say that, Sir. I only say that if I accept the Resolution as it is, I must give preference to Nellore over other districts, which I cannot undertake."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—"It is quite natural that in bringing his remarks to a close he should have pointed out that if the Resolution is accepted with the word 'special', it might mean preference to Nellore as against other districts, and naturally in a Council where there are inter-district considerations also, for he stated the case of the Ceded Districts . . . ."

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Far be it from me, Sir, to play on any inter-district rivalries. All that I say is that I am more concerned with some irrigation programmes, and to see that they are pushed through first of all."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—"I only wish to draw his attention to the fact that regarding the many schemes to which he has drawn the attention of the Council, they have been under consideration and they reached a certain stage from which they have not made any progress. I have before me Mr. Morgan's report which shows that in the case of the Vengalapuram reservoir, we find that it reached a certain stage some ten years ago and much progress has not been made since then. If I have mentioned the progress of the several projects, it was only for the purpose of drawing the attention of the hon. the Law Member to the fact that having allowed investigations to reach a certain stage, it is but desirable that further and greater progress should be made in regard to them. But I do not want to handicap the hon. the Law Member's discretion in any way in this matter, and I am quite sure that he is equally interested in the extension of irrigation in a district which next to Ceded Districts is suffering most from famine and drought, and the pushing through of the schemes as early as possible. Without handicapping him in any way, I have no objection to the word 'special' being omitted from the Resolution."

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The Motion with the word 'special' omitted therefrom was then put to the House and carried.

LEVY OF A FEE ON LANDS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AYACUT REGISTERS.

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the Motion that stands in my name runs thus :—

10. *That this Council recommends to the Government that notification No.* 151, *dated 9th December* 1920, *published in the* Kistna District Gazette *for levying a fee on lands to be included in the ayacut registers should be cancelled.*

" I formally move this Resolution, Sir, and at the same time I crave the permission of this House to get this adjourned to some day in February, that is, to a day in the February session, because I had a talk with the hon. the Law Member, and as Government have not got sufficient information, we agreed to postpone the discussion of this Motion to the first day in the February Session. So I crave the leave of the House to adjourn this matter. Even if there is no non-official day in the February Session, the hon. the Law Member has promised to give a day for this Resolution."

Mr. M. Seetayya seconded the motion.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The hon. Mover was kind enough to come and discuss the whole matter with me, and he has placed certain considerations before me and the Chief Engineer, which are worthy of careful scrutiny. And I told him that if I was convinced of his arguments, we would take certain action, and therefore I asked him to get this Resolution adjourned, and he has been courteous enough to do so. And with the consent of the House, I shall be glad to consent to the adjournment in the manner proposed. I may say that if the matter has to be discussed at all, it will be discussed in the February Session, but it is hoped that it may not become the subject of discussion."

The Motion for adjournment was put to the House and carried.

The House then adjourned (5–10 p.m.) to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX A.

[Vide page 309 supra]

NOTE FOR THE EXCISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The time has now come for the Committee definitely to decide upon its policy in the matter of temperance, and to enable it to do this I have placed before it two documents which I commend to the earnest attention of members. The first is a pamphlet prepared by Mr. Strathie. In this he sets out the past history of many events connected with the development of the excise system in Madras (with which members of the public generally are not acquainted) and proceeds to examine in the light of them the